

INFORMATION FROM THE RSPCA

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INSPECTORATE STATISTICS 1990 - FACTS AND FIGURES

WORKLOAD

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
Phone calls to Inspectorate	1,162,219	1,053,360
Complaints investigated	85,867	82,948
Cautions issued	4,229	4,849
Convictions	2,608	2,026

MAIN OFFENCES

Cruelty to dogs	1,512	1,131
Dog fighting related offences	62	19
Cruelty to cats	191	214
Cruelty to horses/donkeys	149	51
Cruelty to cattle/sheep/pigs	316	198
Wildlife offences (badgers & birds)	162	149

PENALTIES

The penalties under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, which is the legislation under which most convictions were secured, are a maximum fine of up to £2,000 and/or up to six months in prison. A total of 53 defendants received prison sentences ranging from half a day to six months. Magistrates also have the power to ban people from owning an animal for a discretionary period. The majority of bans imposed were on owning dogs, with the disqualification period ranging from six months to life.

Imposed prison sentences	44	28
Suspended prison sentences	9	16
Juvenile offenders	3	11
Disqualification orders	856	715

Legal costs incurred by the RSPCA for prosecuting offenders during 1990 amounted to £595,994. The courts awarded £336,579 in costs of which, to date (7.3.91), the Society has recovered £125,199. This year the Society has budgeted a sum of £800,000 for prosecutions. Keeping animals in care while waiting for cases to come to court is also a costly business. Last year boarding fees came to £239,001.

RESCUES AND INSPECTIONS

During 1990 RSPCA Inspectors visited a total of 16,936 establishments including pet shops, markets, stables, zoos, slaughterhouses and breeding kennels. The force carried out a total of 2,530 rescues of animals, ranging from cats trapped up trees to sheep stranded on cliff faces. A total of 347 badgers, 1,319 foxes and 2,678 swans were collected plus 28,964 other miscellaneous wild animals. Large numbers were successfully returned to the wild including 1,524 swans.

Rescues	2,530	2,768
Inspections undertaken	16,936	18,516

TOP TWELVE CRUELTY VICTIMS

Dogs	1,512	Wild birds	135	Goats	27
Cats	191	Cattle	109	Badgers	27
Sheep	168	Rabbits	66	Domestic fowl	23
Horses/donkeys	149	Pigs	39	Snakes	22